Utilisation of Funds for Bogibeel Bridge

401. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for survey of Bogibeel bridge are being utilised for the purpose;

(b) the manner in which the cost of construction of Bogibeel bridge is likely to be shared among different beneficial agencies;

(c) whether C.C.E.A. has accorded its approval; and

(d) if not, the progress made in this regard, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of construction of the bridge is proposed to be shared by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Surface Transport.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

International Children Film Festival at Hyderabad

402. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hyderabad has been chosen as the permanent venue for holding the international children's film festival every year; and

(b) if so, the time by which the 10 th International Film Festival for children and young people is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The festival is held once in two years.

(b) The 10th International Film Festival for children and young people is being held at Hyderabad from 14th to 23rd November, 1997.

Bagha Chitauni Broad Gauge Line

403. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 28 mk. Stretch of Bagha Chitauni broad gauge line under the North-Eastern Railway was approved in April, 1974 with a budget of 6.74 crores;

(b) whether the above project was to be commissioned in April, 1994 with revised budgetary estimate of Rs. 164.09 crores;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in commissioning of above project and the justifications therefor; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The rail line has been commissioned. The road bridge superstructure work is being taken up now since the co-sharers Viz U.P. , Bihar and Ministry of Water Resources have just paid their share.

(d) The rail bridge has been commissioned. The road bridge is likely to be completed by December 99.

Air Service from Kangra Airport

404. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been no air service from the Kangra airport (Himachal Pradesh) for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken or proposed to be taken to restore flights from Kangra airport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Kangra airport is suitable for turbo-prop aircraft only. The Dornier aircraft available in the Indian Airlines fleet are already committed to operatiing in the North-Eastern region and Lakshadweep. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations such as Kangra in their network, subject to viability.

Air Cargo Hub

405. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a clearance has been given for an international air cargo hub and subsequently the same has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the circumstances that made the Secretary of the Ministry to issue a clearance and the reasons for cancelling the same; and

(c) if so, whether any further guidelines have been prepared in dealing with such cases in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Autonomy to Air India and Indian Airlines

406. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend sovereign guarantees to Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) to enable them to purchase aircraft at competitive rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government does not normally extend sovereign guarantees against external commercial brorrowings.

Changes in Prasar Bharati Act

407. SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI B.L.SHANKAR :
SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any plan for making any changes in Prasar Bharati Act, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the constitution of Board of Directors for Prasar Bharati has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details of composition and functions of the Board;

(e) whether the Government propose to regulate Private Channel;

(f) if so, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(g) to what extent the autonomy as contemplated under the Act has been granted to Doordarshan and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated on 29.10.97, thereby amending certain sections of the Principal Act, with a view to augment the autonomy and enhance the efficacy of Prasar Bharati as also to remove the overlap between the Prasar Bharati and the Broadcasting Authority, which is proposed to be put in place through a separate enactment.

(c) and (d) The constitution of the Prasar Bharati has not been finalised. According to the Act, the Prasar Bharati Board shall consist of a Chairman, one Excutive Member, six Part-time Members, four Ex-officio Members, two representatives, of employees of Corporation and a representative of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Board will perform functions *interalia* relating to the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Corporation which will encompass both Doordarshan and AIR in accordance with the objectives set out in the Act.

(e) and (f) The Broadcasting Bill, 1997 introduced by the Government in Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 provides for permitting private broadcasting in the country . The Bill has been referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. No timeframe can be indicated at present.

(g) The Prasar Bharati would have full autonomy as contemplated under the Act.

HUDCO Loan to Karnataka

408. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HUDCO has sanctioned any loan to Karnataka recently;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka have completed all formalities related to the loan;

(d) if so, the names of the agencies likely to be provided with loan assistance from the said loan;

(e) whether the HUDCO has released the money to the respective agencies ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) During the current financial year, as on 31.10.97, HUDCO has sanctioned 24 housing and 9 urban infrastructure schemes renvisaging loan assistance of Rs. 41 crores and 114 crores respectively. On completion these schemes will provide 18292 dwelling